

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad: Martinsburg
West Roundhouse
East End of Race and Martin Streets
Martinsburg
Berkeley County
West Virginia

HAER No. WV-1A

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD: MARTINSBURG WEST ROUNDHOUSE

HAER No. WV-1A

Location: End of Race and Martin Streets
Martinsburg, Berkeley County, West Virginia

UTM: 18.245300.4371690
Quad: Martinsburg

Date of Construction: 1866

Builder/Designer: Baltimore and Ohio Railroad
Mount Clare Shops
Baltimore, Maryland

Original Owner: Baltimore and Ohio Railroad

Present Owner: Baltimore and Ohio Railroad
P.O. Box 6419
Terminal Tower
Cleveland, Ohio 44101

Original Use: Running repairs to locomotives

Present Use: Light shop work and storage

Significance: West Roundhouse is a building in the former engine and machine shops complex erected by the B & O in Martinsburg beginning in 1849. Destroyed by Confederate troops in 1861, the existing shops date from 1866 and later. West Roundhouse was one of two identical buildings used for running repairs to locomotives. It is a sixteen-sided, brick-walled polygon covered by a bell-shaped roof over the locomotive turntable, with sixteen wedge-shaped work bays radiating from the turntable. What makes the building unique and architecturally distinctive is its total cast-iron frame of octagonal columns, struts and beams. It is one of the most significant cast-iron framed buildings in the United States.

See HAER No. WV-1 for photographs of Martinsburg West Roundhouse.

Transmitted by: Jean Yearby, HAER, 1984, from data compiled by Eric DeLony, Project Supervisor, B & O Railroad Survey, 1970